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COUNTRY East Germany

25X1 SUBJECT Status of HVA Forces

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. At the present time all services necessary for the activation of divisional units are included in the Bereitschaften. The companies (Abteilungen), however, are weak in personnel, and possess barely enough equipment for training. They are designated, unofficially, as reinforced regiments.
2. Plans for the immediate establishment of six divisional staffs were considered in October 1951. Inspekteur Fritz Reyher was charged with the mission of determining what officers would be suited to work on the divisional staff level. He found that officers of this type were not available. It has since been reported that the establishment of divisional staffs would be postponed until the return of the next officers' course from Russia.
3. On orders of the SCC a training program for schools and Bereitschaften has been worked out for the next two years. Emphasis in the Bereitschaften will be put on company training in the first year and on battalion training in the second. The training of platoon leaders will be stressed in the schools during the first year, that of company leaders in the second.
4. Three possible courses exist for the activities of coming months:
 - a. There will be no new inductions, and the Bereitschaften will be trained in the second phase of the program during the present year.
 - b. New inductions will take place. The recruits will be trained in the first part of the program, while the older members will undertake training in the second.
 - c. Inductions will take place and all members of the VP will together participate in the first phase of the program. The second course is the most likely.

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5. The policy of the HVA towards those whose three-year term of service is ending has been changed. These, except for officers and specialists, are no longer to be retained. Upon their release they are to be registered and to be reconvened occasionally for social evenings and short tours of duty. The object of this procedure is to increase the number of those who have been by the HVA without actually increasing the personnel strength of the HVA itself.
6. Possible Expansion of the HVA in the near future. The present (end of 1951) strength of the HVA amounts to about 54,000 men. If it can be assumed that about two platoons can be added to each existing company, then a personnel increase of about 36,000 men would result. Half a year would be required to train these troops to combat readiness. Hence, a combat-ready force of 90,000 men would be available only in the second half of 1952. Then a thousand men, enrolled in school programs, would have to be deducted from this number.
7. It is understood that new uniforms, different from the usual police uniforms and of a khaki color, are to be provided for the HVA and have already been manufactured.
8. [redacted] the HVA units cannot be used as combat troops with their present equipment and organization. Even if organized into divisions or regimental combat teams and provided with adequate standardized weapons, they would still require some months of additional training. It is pointed out incidentally that "street fighting" is one of the subjects included in the tactical training; but only about 8% of the time is allotted to this subject, and the instruction is purely theoretical, with no opportunity for practice.

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